



Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48

7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78744-1645

518-804-4000 telephone • 512-804-4811 fax • www.tdi.texas.gov

MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name and Address

TEXAS HEALTH HEB
3255 W PIONEER PKWY
PANTEGO TX 76013-4620

Respondent Name

AMERICAN ZURICH INSURANCE COMPANY

Carrier's Austin Representative Box

Box Number 19

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-12-1018-01

MFDR Date Received

December 1, 2011

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "we have found in this audit they have not paid what we determine to be 'fair and reasonable' amount for this outpatient services. . . We also verified there was no PPO reduction taken, and that the incorrect APC was used in the pricing of this claim."

Amount in Dispute: \$2,124.14

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "The carrier determined the correct reimbursement rate was \$2075.78. The carrier maintains this amount is consistent with the applicable fee guidelines."

Response Submitted by: Flahive, Ogden & Latson, Post Office Drawer 201329, Austin, TX 78720

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Date(s) of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
January 4, 2011 to January 5, 2011	Outpatient Hospital Services	\$2,124.14	\$2,124.14

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and all applicable, adopted rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Background

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403, titled *Hospital Facility Fee Guideline – Outpatient*, sets out the reimbursement guidelines for facility services provided in an outpatient acute care hospital.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.203, titled *Medical Fee Guideline for Professional Services*, sets out the reimbursement guidelines for professional medical services.
4. The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:
 - 97 – The benefit for this service is included in the payment/allowance for another service/procedure that has

- already been adjudicated.
- W1 – Workers Compensation State Fee Schedule Adjustment.
- 45 – Charge exceeds fee schedule/maximum allowable or contracted/legislated fee arrangement.

Issues

1. Are the disputed services subject to a contractual agreement between the parties to this dispute?
2. What is the applicable rule for determining reimbursement for the disputed services?
3. What is the recommended payment amount for the services in dispute?
4. Is the requestor entitled to reimbursement?

Findings

1. The insurance carrier reduced payment for disputed services with reason code 45 – “Charge exceeds fee schedule/maximum allowable or contracted/legislated fee arrangement.” Per Labor Code §413.011(d-6) the provisions that authorized insurance carriers to contract with health care providers for fees that are different from those specified by the Division’s fee guidelines expired on January 1, 2011. No information was found to support that the services in dispute are subject to a contractual agreement related to a workers’ compensation health care network that had been certified under Insurance Code Chapter 1305. The disputed services will therefore be reviewed for payment in accordance with applicable Division rules and fee guidelines.
2. This dispute relates to facility services performed in an outpatient hospital setting with reimbursement subject to the provisions of 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403, which requires that the reimbursement calculation used for establishing the maximum allowable reimbursement (MAR) shall be the Medicare facility specific amount, including outlier payment amounts, determined by applying the most recently adopted and effective Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) reimbursement formula and factors as published annually in the Federal Register with the application of minimal modifications as set forth in the rule. Per §134.403(f)(1), the sum of the Medicare facility specific reimbursement amount and any applicable outlier payment amount shall be multiplied by 200 percent, unless a facility or surgical implant provider requests separate reimbursement of implantables. Review of the submitted documentation finds that separate reimbursement for implantables was not requested.
3. Under the Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS), each billed service is assigned an Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) based on the procedure code used, the supporting documentation and the other services that appear on the bill. A payment rate is established for each APC. Depending on the services provided, hospitals may be paid for more than one APC per encounter. Payment for ancillary and supportive items and services, including services that are billed without procedure codes, is packaged into payment for the primary service. A full list of APCs is published annually in the OPPS final rules which are publicly available through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) website. Reimbursement for the disputed services is calculated as follows:
 - Procedure code 36415 has a status indicator of A, which denotes services paid under a fee schedule or payment system other than OPPS. Per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403(h), for outpatient services for which Medicare reimburses using fee schedules other than OPPS, reimbursement is made using the applicable Division fee guideline in effect for that service on the date the service was provided. Facility payment for the technical component of this service is calculated according to the Medical Fee Guideline for Professional Services, §134.203(e)(1). The fee listed for this code in the Medicare Clinical Fee Schedule is \$3.00. 125% of this amount is \$3.75. The recommended payment is \$3.75.
 - Procedure code 84703 has a status indicator of A, which denotes services paid under a fee schedule or payment system other than OPPS. Per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403(h), for outpatient services for which Medicare reimburses using fee schedules other than OPPS, reimbursement is made using the applicable Division fee guideline in effect for that service on the date the service was provided. Facility payment for the technical component of this service is calculated according to the Medical Fee Guideline for Professional Services, §134.203(e)(1). The fee listed for this code in the Medicare Clinical Fee Schedule is \$10.57. 125% of this amount is \$13.21. The recommended payment is \$13.21.
 - Procedure code 80053 has a status indicator of A, which denotes services paid under a fee schedule or payment system other than OPPS. Per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403(h), for outpatient services for which Medicare reimburses using fee schedules other than OPPS, reimbursement is made using the applicable Division fee guideline in effect for that service on the date the service was provided. Facility payment for the technical component of this service is calculated according to the Medical Fee Guideline for Professional Services, §134.203(e)(1). The fee listed for this code in the Medicare Clinical Fee Schedule is \$14.87. 125% of this amount is \$18.59. The recommended payment is \$18.59.

- Procedure code 88304 has a status indicator of X, which denotes ancillary services paid under OPPS with separate APC payment. This service is classified under APC 0343, which, per OPPS Addendum A, has a payment rate of \$36.48. This amount multiplied by 60% yields an unadjusted labor-related amount of \$21.89. This amount multiplied by the annual wage index for this facility of 0.9561 yields an adjusted labor-related amount of \$20.93. The non-labor related portion is 40% of the APC rate or \$14.59. The sum of the labor and non-labor related amounts is \$35.52. The cost of this service does not exceed the annual fixed-dollar threshold of \$2,025. The outlier payment amount is \$0. The total APC payment for this service, including any applicable outlier payment, is \$35.52. This amount multiplied by 200% yields a MAR of \$71.04.
 - Procedure code 88311 has a status indicator of X, which denotes ancillary services paid under OPPS with separate APC payment. This service is classified under APC 0342, which, per OPPS Addendum A, has a payment rate of \$11.04. This amount multiplied by 60% yields an unadjusted labor-related amount of \$6.62. This amount multiplied by the annual wage index for this facility of 0.9561 yields an adjusted labor-related amount of \$6.33. The non-labor related portion is 40% of the APC rate or \$4.42. The sum of the labor and non-labor related amounts is \$10.75. The cost of this service does not exceed the annual fixed-dollar threshold of \$2,025. The outlier payment amount is \$0. The total APC payment for this service, including any applicable outlier payment, is \$10.75. This amount multiplied by 200% yields a MAR of \$21.50.
 - Procedure code 24359 has a status indicator of T, which denotes a significant procedure subject to multiple procedure discounting. The highest paying status T APC is paid at 100%; all others are paid at 50%. This procedure is paid at 100%. This service is classified under APC 0050, which, per OPPS Addendum A, has a payment rate of \$2,220.83. This amount multiplied by 60% yields an unadjusted labor-related amount of \$1,332.50. This amount multiplied by the annual wage index for this facility of 0.9561 yields an adjusted labor-related amount of \$1,274.00. The non-labor related portion is 40% of the APC rate or \$888.33. The sum of the labor and non-labor related amounts is \$2,162.33. The cost of this service does not exceed the annual fixed-dollar threshold of \$2,025. The outlier payment amount is \$0. The total APC payment for this service is \$2,162.33. This amount multiplied by 200% yields a MAR of \$4,324.66.
 - Procedure code J2180 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into payment for other services, including outliers.
 - Procedure code J2250 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into payment for other services, including outliers.
 - Procedure code J2405 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into payment for other services, including outliers.
 - Procedure code J2550 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into payment for other services, including outliers.
 - Procedure code J3010 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into payment for other services, including outliers.
 - Procedure code J7120 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into payment for other services, including outliers.
4. The total allowable reimbursement for the services in dispute is \$4,452.75. The amount previously paid by the insurance carrier is \$2,196.37. The requestor is seeking additional reimbursement in the amount of \$2,124.14. This amount is recommended.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the Division finds that the requestor has established that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$2,124.14.

ORDER

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code Sections 413.031 and 413.019 (if applicable), the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to additional reimbursement for the services involved in this dispute. The Division hereby ORDERS the respondent to remit to the requestor the amount of \$2,124.14, plus applicable accrued interest per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.130, due within 30 days of receipt of this order.

Authorized Signature

_____ Signature	<u>Grayson Richardson</u> Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer	<u>October 19, 2012</u> Date
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YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute may appeal this decision by requesting a contested case hearing. A completed **Request for a Medical Contested Case Hearing** (form **DWC045A**) must be received by the DWC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers Compensation, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744. The party seeking review of the MDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision* together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §148.3(c), including a **certificate of service demonstrating that the request has been sent to the other party.****

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.